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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/823,058  | 03/30/2001  | Tatsuya Suzuki       | NECZ 18.544         | 8996             |
| 26304   | 7590        | 11-13/2003           |                     | EXAMINER         |
| KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN<br>575 MADISON AVENUE<br>NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585 |             |                      | MOORE, KARLA A      |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 1763                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 09/823,058             | SUZUKI, TATSUYA     |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Karla Moore            | 1763                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,10-12 and 15-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-12 and 15-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-2 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All b) Some \* c) None of:  
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                    4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.                    6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-2 and 5-7 in a paper filed 7 August 2003 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 10-12 and 15-17 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No 5,346,518 to Baseman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,035 to Gupta et al.
5. Baseman et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed and comprising: a semiconductor substrate/stock vessel (40, Figure 6A), which is an openable/closeable (column 16, rows 39-42) vessel used in a semiconductor device manufacturing process and adapted to store or transfer a semiconductor substrate (12) (abstract), wherein said vessel incorporates at least one adsorbent made of active carbon and capable of adsorbing an organic substance, and is mounted detachably (30; column 8, rows 5-7 and 43-45; column 19, rows 44-46).
6. However, Baseman et al. fail to teach said adsorbent is at least one of an ion-exchange resin and a material with a surface having a Si-F bond.
7. Gupta et al. teach the use of an adsorbent/seasoning film, capable of adsorbing an organic substance, wherein the at least one adsorbent is a material with a surface having an Si-F bond for the

purpose of reducing contaminants within a processing environment (abstract and column 10, row 43-column 11, row11).

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the Applicant's invention was made to have provided an adsorber/absorber capable of adsorbing an organic substance, wherein the at least one adsorbent is a material with a surface having an Si-F bond Baseman et al. in order to reduce contaminants within a processing environment as taught by Gupta et al.

9. With respect to claim 2, the vessel disclosed in Baseman et al. incorporates a semiconductor substrate carrier (48) having a plurality of slots (52), each capable of holding one semiconductor substrate, so that a plurality of semiconductor substrates are stored while being held by said semiconductor carrier.

10. With respect to claim 5, Baseman et al. further teach that the adsorbent is a silicon wafer with a surface coated with an adsorbing agent, such as active carbon (Figure 4, column 9, rows 41-46).

11. With respect to claim 6, said adsorbent may be mounted in and empty slot of said semiconductor substrate carrier (see Figure 6A).

12. With respect to claim 7, in addition to being mounted in an empty slot of said semiconductor substrate carrier, the adsorbent of Basemen et al. may also be mounted in a space defined between an inner wall of said stock/transfer vessel and an outer wall of said semiconductor substrate carrier.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 and 5-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection using Gupta et al.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karla Moore whose telephone number is 703.305.3142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on 703.308.1633. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.0661.

km  
5 November 2003

primary Examiner  
AU 1763

P. Hassanzadeh